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GOLD INDUSTRY MUST RECEIVE PROTECTION

A bill to provide for the conservation of natural resources of the nation has been introduced by Senator Dill, who is convinced that the depletion of the gold-mining industry can be no longer neglected without further heavy losses of our gold reserves, and interference of placer and equipment, and the maintenance of heavy expense.

The government, having controlled gold as the unit of monetary value, has set a price of \$20.67 per ounce (gold) as the only product whose price is fixed by the government. It has fixed the price of gold for its production, which has greatly increased since 1913, a majority of the producers of gold have been forced to shut down their mines, which has resulted in a decline in the production of gold from one hundred and one million in 1914 to fifty million in 1921, to about 50 per cent.

The public greatly profits because of the adoption of gold as the monetary unit and can well afford to adjust the inequalities among government products. The price of gold, by the payment of a bounty of 25 cents per pennyweight for newly produced gold in the United States and its possessions, provided for in the bill. The period for the payment is limited to three years, and the manner in which it is to be paid will not affect the monetary status of gold nor alter the arrangement under which the gold producer now receives \$20.67 per ounce.

A committee of the treasury department early in 1919 reported that production costs were to decline with a general decline in commodity prices and wages, and that, therefore, there was no need for providing special aid for the gold mining industry. This favorable condition has not, however, been realized but on the contrary, production costs have increased and the production of gold has greatly declined.

Again, when the general drop in prices took place in 1921, the assumption was made that costs of gold production would soon return to normal and that therefore there was no need for providing additional compensation for the industry. The production of gold in 1921, however, was less than that of 1920, thus indicating that the reduction of production costs was not sufficient to exert a stimulating effect upon the industry.

REVENUE AGENTS ARE BEING KEPT BUSY

Under the revenue laws the government cannot inaugurate any action for collection of any internal revenue tax after the expiration of five years from the time such tax was due. The revenue taxes on incomes, profits, etc., for the year 1917 were due March 15, 1918. The five-year period in which the government can institute suits to recover money from tax evaders expires March 15, next.

In view of that fact, the internal revenue department is bending every energy to clean up all uncollected and disputed tax cases for the year 1917. Tens of thousands of these cases were left by the democratic administration. Moreover, it has been ascertained by the present administration that thousands of tax cases were closed which should not have been. Their closing means the loss of tens of millions of dollars to the government.

The present revenue department is reopening a large percentage of these cases and compelling tax evaders who compromised with the democratic administration to pay what they owe the government. The larger cases involve payments in the sum of vast proportions ranging from a half million to five million dollars.

It is the intention of the present administration to cut all red tape in the consideration of these claims in order to arrive at a decision before the statute of limitation takes effect. In addition an extra force is being put

on for the purpose of reauditing those returns which have excited some suspicion. As a result of this drive against tax evaders, thousands of amended returns have been filed with the internal revenue office and back taxes are coming in at the rate of about twenty-six million dollars a month. This is one of the results of the present administration's injection of business into government.

MERCHANT MARINE AN ESSENTIAL NEED

"This man, I know," said Ediff King Hal, speaking of Crumrine, "has got the right way by the ear." In language less homely and more elegant, but equally to the point, it may be said that Colonel M. W. Robinson, president of the American Manufacturers' Export Association, voiced a great truth when he declared a day or two ago that development of an American merchant marine will benefit the whole country as well as the shipowners. Promotion of foreign trade, retention of about \$300,000,000 a year in freight money in this country, employment of thousands of men in shipping and allied trades and the creation of a naval reserve, making it certain that never again will it be necessary to create a fleet at a cost of three billion dollars in an emergency, are among the benefits which Colonel Robinson said would naturally flow from the placing of an adequate merchant marine on the high seas.

And he is right in his contention for transportation is essential to prosperity, and for transportation ocean going vessels are in their own way as important as railroads or inland waterways. There are some persons who admit the truth of this proposition and yet hesitate at the idea of a ship subsidy. These good people are of the type who balk at words and are shadow frightened. No one will deny that the country is committed to a policy of protection, and what, after all, is the government shipping bill but protection applied to transportation instead of manufacture? It merely extends in another position subsidizing processes long in effect but not generally recognized as such because they are not so labeled. What are the irrigation dams and the watersheds set up by the federal government in co-operation with certain states if not a form of subsidy to landowners, stock raisers and agriculturists? What are the land grants and franchises given to railroads? Subsidy. What are the advances made for highways? What are the farm mortgage banks, for if not to provide to those concerned at least an indirect subsidy?

It begins to look very much like the Divide district was destined to stage a comeback that will prove a surprise to the mining fraternity. Not that we can look forward to the exciting days of four years ago, but the truth is rapidly dawning upon us that the district, taken as a whole, is rich in deposits of gold and silver-bearing ores. This has been demonstrated with much force through past development that has been carried forward on the Tonopah Divide, one of the greatest mines in southern Nevada; the Brongher Divide, Gold Zone, New Tonopah Dividend, Divide Extension and a number of others lying in close proximity to the mother property. The Divide district covers a wide area of mineralization. To the southwest of the properties mentioned there are a number of prospects that have been making a splendid showing of late months as the result of development, among which may be mentioned the Gold Belt, Gold Seam and Rosetta, and it would seem that about all that is now necessary is to proceed along lines of systematic operation and that substantial producers will be the result.

Only those have lived well who have not lived for themselves alone.

IMMENSE TRIBUTE PAID

On the basis of tonnage entering into our export and import trade during the last hundred years, the commerce department has figured out that American-owned vessels earned about nine billion dollars in ocean freights, while foreign-owned ships took in more than twenty-eight billion dollars. The latter figure represents a dead loss to the United States, which we might have had if there had been sufficient American ships to carry our goods. It is on such facts as those that the advocates of the government aid bill are basing their arguments.

POST UP ON THE MERCHANT MARINE

Young people who try to keep in touch with current events, particularly students in high schools and colleges should read President Harding's address to congress on the merchant marine. There is no more important question before the country at this time. The future of our commerce and our naval strength depend largely on a solution of the shipping problem. Every citizen should study the question in order to form an opinion based upon full information. Any senator or congressman can send you a copy of the president's discussion of the subject.

The Turks believe if one can't tax minorities they can at least massacre them.

And now let us be permitted to state that the world hates a liar who hates.

As a rule when the cost of living runs down it does so merely to get a running start up.

Thrift is the art of burning 30 cents worth of gasoline to find out where \$10 shoes can be purchased for \$9.98.

The man who left a poet sold all his money evidently is of the opinion that poets are born and not paid.

Times don't change much. Even in the old days reaching for the lip indicated that somebody was going to suffer.

At present prices, 800,000 barrels of whisky which remain in bond could be sold for enough to pay the national debt.

A real use has been found for the Ku Klux Klan in the south. It serves as the goat upon which to blame every lynching or other act of abomination that occurs in that section of the country.

Whether we have little or much immigration, we want that little or much of such a character as can be assimilated. We have too many hyphenated Americans already.

Secretary Mellon is urging the banks to assist the people in converting their war saving stamps into treasury saving certificates. The conversion may be made at par at any time even though the stamps do not mature until January 1, next.

CARRY ON VAST PROPAGANDA

Islam Fraternities Factors of Great Importance Throughout the Whole Mohammedan World.

A spiritual factor of great importance in the Mohammedan world is the fraternities. Islam always had its fraternities, but the two which did the most for its religious and political revival came into existence about the middle of the Nineteenth century—the Sennussiya and the Djemal-ed-Din, writes Rev. Amos I. Dushaw in the Christian Herald.

The founder of the Sennussiya was Seyid Mohammed Sennussi, a descendant of the prophet and a man of learning, piety and position. It was strictly puritan in character and now, eighty years old, is exerting a great spiritual influence on Islam. This fraternity has lodges scattered throughout the whole of Islam, but El Sennussi, the present leader, has a firm hold on the whole movement and he has kept it from political alliances, Islamic and Christian. He is aiming at a spiritual revival of his people because he feels that Islam cannot regain its complete political independence without its old spiritual life. In a word, the Sennussiya is doing preparatory work.

It is also carrying on a tremendous missionary propaganda and converting millions of pagan negroes to its faith. Djemal-ed-Din, unlike Sennussi, was less of a theologian and more of a political propagandist, feared and persecuted by the English. He saw Islam's danger and worked hard to stir it up to action. Stoddard says, "It is not too much to say that he is the father of every shade of Egyptian nationalism." His influence did not end with Egypt. Djemal-ed-Din was no wild fanatic. He knew the forces that faced the Islam world and, like Sennussi, only dealing with political matters, he offered advice of real value to his people. "It is plain that the whole Moslem world must unite in a great defensive alliance to preserve itself from destruction; and to do this it must acquire the technique of western progress and learn the secret of European power."

GIANT TREE ON LONG ISLAND

Experts Say Sycamore Is Nearly Four Hundred Years Old and Good for Century More.

"Old Sycamore," the giant on the place of James Hill at Wheatley, L. I., which recently won the "Gigantic Tree on Long Island" contest conducted by Normal Taylor of Brooklyn Botanic gardens, was born only 57 years after Columbus landed at San Salvador. It is 1492. It was eighty years old when Hendrick Hudson first saw Long Island—in 1620.

This is the opinion of Mr. Taylor and other experts who have examined the giant sycamore, the New York world states. Its age is estimated between 300 and 400 years, more likely the latter. It is said. The trunk near the ground is 24 feet in circumference and some of the limbs, half way up even, are larger than the trunks of many trees which claim to be patriarchs.

The height of "Old Sycamore" has not been ascertained, but it towers over the landscape in lovely fashion. Mr. Hill says that 100 years ago the place was used by the county butcher as his home. His best, when slaughtered, was hung on chains from "Old Sycamore's" limbs. Recent photographs were taken when Mr. Hill bought the place.

During the past 105 or 120 years, after the forest was cut away, soil from neighboring hills was washed down and blew around the tree to a depth of 15 feet. This was verified six years ago. Mr. Hill says when a tree expert saw "Old Sycamore" the first thought of its life.

The tree is said to be in splendid condition and good for a century or so more.

DIFFERING VIEWS OF RAINBOW

Declaration Made That No Two Persons Can See the Same Display in the Same Way.

Misconceptions concerning the rainbow are many, according to Prof. W. J. Humphreys, Ph. D., of Franklin Institute, Philadelphia. "Close observations have shown that not even the colors are always the same. Neither is the band of any color of constant angular width, nor is the total breadth at the several colors uniform. But perhaps the most interesting feature which Professor Humphreys brings out is the fact that no two persons see the same rainbow; there are as many rainbows as there are persons looking at them, it seems."

Theory teaches and ordinary experience shows as the observer remains stationary or moves, so also, other things being equal, does his rainbow. If then, two observers initially close together should move in opposite directions, each would find his rainbow responding in the same sense as his shadow, and presently the two positions, and therefore the identity of the two bows, would become unquestionably different, from which it follows that, as the eyes of the two observers must always be separated by a great or a less distance, their bows must also be correspondingly separated and different positions are produced by different raindrops.

In short, since the rainbow is a special distribution of colors produced in a particular way with reference to a definite point—the eye of the observer—and as no single distribution (other than uniform and infinite) can be the same for two separate points, it follows that two observers cannot see the same rainbow.—Rehoboth Sunday Herald.



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FOLLOWED SEA FIFTY YEARS

Retired Commander Has Many Stories of Adventure Accumulated During Half Century on Ocean.

Capt. J. W. Christie, formerly commander of the White Star Dominion line, has retired after sailing the seas for 51 years.

Captain Christie first went to sea when only ten years old and during the next half century participated in many interesting experiences.

In 1877, while still an apprentice, he served on the old sailor Seaforth, when that vessel was employed to carry the famous Hindon's Horse from India to the Transvaal at the time of the Russo-Turkish war. The fleet of transports reached their destination, and landing native troops to occupy Cyprus, they found the Turks entrenched close to the beach and were forced to commence debarkation under fire. The youthful apprentice was given charge of a spirited horse, and mounted on its bare back swam his steed toward the beach and the Turks. The animal, according to the captain's account of the affair, reached shore well ahead of all competitors and then, despite the earnest efforts of its rider, dashed headlong toward the Turkish lines. Pull as he might, nothing would check the beast's ardor, until one of many bullets from the entrenched enemy struck it and turned it again toward the sea. The apprentice regained his ship in safety, none the worse for his unusual experience, but with a strong and lasting desire for international complications.

Wood and Furniture

There are thousands of different species of wood in the world, but no two square inches are alike. The same wood may be plain-sawn or quarter-sawn, but there will be a world of difference in the two. No one inch in a board is like another. Nor will you ever find two pieces of wood of the same texture.

Trees are developed very much as a human being is developed. They have vertebrae, pipes or pores, which carry water and nutrients of mineral through their trunks and limbs, just as the blood feeds the human body.

There are no products in the world whose history with compare with those fashioned from wood. Civilization itself has evolved along with the evolution of wood and its uses. Civilization would have been impossible without wood. Nations which have succeeded most are those which have followed the hardwood belts.

Russia Coming Back?

The old-time scenes at American railway junctions, when the brakeman came through the train shouting: "Blackville, 20 minutes stop for supper," are being duplicated in Russia as the normal conditions of travel are being restored and railway station restaurants, foodless and closed for four years, are opening again. Passengers during the revolution had nothing to eat on long journeys except what they brought with them, but now practically every station restaurant offers almost a pre-war bill of fare. As the trains pull in a scramble for food ensues that would rival an American quick-lunch counter during the rush hours. Some of the more important trains have dining cars, but they are patronized only by first-class passengers, and even many of these enjoy the rush at the station restaurants more than the decorum of the wagon restaurant.

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